Arizona Transportation Research Center

Newsletter — July 2004

Project Updates

Highlights from selected projects

STATE PLANNING AND RESEARCH (SPR) PROJECTS

SPR 519 – *PM10 RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPING EDUCATIONAL TOOLS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS*

The final report for this research project was published October 2003. This project developed an educational outreach and certification program for the Maricopa County PM10 air quality non-attainment area. It is intended for educational use statewide. The logo "Blue Skies Training Program" was adopted for this training.

On June 11th, 2004 the first training session was conducted and was very successful. The training program is being managed by Beverly Chenausky, Air Quality Programs, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Transportation Planning Division. Another session is being planned for next fall. There are also plans to implement an online training package – presently in the early stages of development. Program information is available online at: http://tpd.az.gov/air/blueskies/main.htm

New Small Budget Projects Approved

Under the Arizona Transportation Research Center (ATRC) small budget research program approximately $100,000 is set aside each year to fund projects with a maximum budget of $15,000. For the FY2004 program eight projects were funded. There was a tie in the evaluations for the seventh and eight ranked projects, so the total small budget funding was increased to $110,000. The FY2004 small budget research projects include:

- *Evaluating and Improving the ADOT Dyed Diesel Education and Enforcement Program, Making a Good First Impression* – The research will identify valid indicators of the impact of the dyed fuel enforcement program on fuel tax compliance.
- *Improving PreDesign and Environmental Public Information* – The potential benefits of assigning a full-time Public Information Project Manager to conduct customer relations during the initial stages of the project introduction will be studied.
- *Barcode Inventory System* – The research will evaluate the effectiveness of barcode systems for ADOT.
- *ADOT/MPO TIP/STIP Process* – The research will evaluate the current Metropolitan Planning Organization and State Transportation Improvement Programs.
- *Multimodal Optimization of Urban Freeway Corridors* – A literature search and survey will be conducted on this topic.
- *Open Source Software Study* – The study will examine the benefits and risks of using Open source software (OSS) vs. commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) software within ADOT.
- *Survey of Traffic Noise Reduction Products, Materials and Technology* – Products, materials or technology that could be used for noise reduction will be identified.
- *Air Quality Effects of High Sound Walls in Urban Areas – The potential impact of high sound walls on urban air quality will be examined.*

ATRC UPDATE

FY2005 RESEARCH PROJECTS SELECTED

The ADOT Research Council completed its review of proposals for research to be funded in FY2005. Twenty-nine proposals, representing seven emphasis areas were initially screened by the Council for final consideration. At a meeting on June 28, 2004 the final 19 proposals were discussed and evaluated. Based on the Research Council rankings, nine new projects will be funded, totaling $957,000. The approved projects include three environmental projects, three traffic & safety projects, one Intelligent Transportation Systems project, one structures project, and one materials & construction project.

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